

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, (1) Walter KOZA and (2) Stefan FEHRINGER, declare that we are both citizens of Austria, residing at (1) Weilburgplatz 136, A-2500 Baden, Austria, and (2) Ketteringstr. 12, A-4400 Steyr, Austria, respectively, and that we have read, reviewed and understand the content of the foregoing specification including claims and we verily believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the invention entitled **PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR PICKLING METAL STRIPS** described and claimed in the application filed August 6, 2003 and accorded Serial No. 10/635,012; that we acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to patentability of this application as defined in 37 CFR 1.56; and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on said invention has been filed by us or our representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States except as follows:

Austrian Patent Application No. A 1194/2002, filed August 7, 2002.

And we hereby appoint:

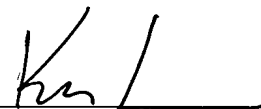
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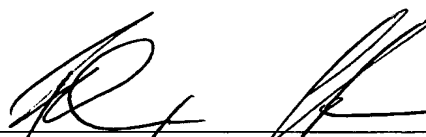
of the firm of ROYLANCE, ABRAMS, BERDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P. as our attorneys or agents with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Correspondence and telephone calls are to be directed to:

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The undersigned declare further that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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